



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 324, May 1, 2026

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section (updated as conditions warrant) and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

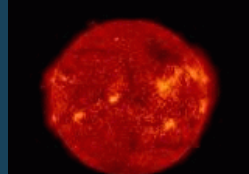
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

02 May 2026 1719 GMT
SFI: 145 SN: 133
A-Index: 14
K-Index: 1
X-Ray: C1.3
304A: 120.4 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 15
Elc Flx: 1740
Aurora: 2/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -0.2
Solar Wind: 433.6
Geomag Field VR QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
Copyright Paul L. Herrman 2023

5805

DX News

3B9, RODRIGUES I. Suvarna, VU3OPT, is QRV as **3B9G** until **May 22nd**. Activity is currently focused on CW. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or [VU3OPT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

5X, UGANDA. John, KF5NSR, is currently in Kampala and plans to operate as **5X/KF5NSR** on FT8 unless he receives a Ugandan callsign.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

5Z4, KENYA. Paul, MMØZBH is currently active as **5Z4/MMØZBH** from Kenya until **June 15th**. He operates CW, SSB and FT8 and is QRV holiday style while volunteering at a local school. QSL via

LoTW and [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0619)

6Y, JAMAICA. It is reported that **6Y5CB** was active recently on 15 meter SSB. QSL direct to [6Y5CB](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 16, 2026] (0417-0508)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD is again active as **8R1TM** from Guyana **until May 10th**. He operates CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-6 meters and via satellite, from 2300 to 0300 UTC during the week, and "full time" during the weekends. He will also participate in the CQ MM DX Contest (April 18th-19th). QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ, or direct to [PY1SAD](#).

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0410-0515)

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA. Team **9M4PI** will be active from Pangkor Island (AS-072), West Malaysia on **May 1st-3rd**. More information can be found on <https://www.qrz.com/db/9M4PI>. QSL direct to [9M2HUS](#).

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0501-0508)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. The Emirates Amateur Radio Society participates in the "Proud of UAE" campaign, the nationwide initiative celebrating the country's progress and identity. Look for **A6ØPE** (individual operators may append a serial number to the special callsign: **A6ØPE/Ø**, **A6ØPE/1**, etc.) to be used **through May 31st**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/A6ØPE> for the QSL routes.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0529)

BY, CHINA. Ten stations (**BØCRA**, **B1CRA**, **B2CRA**, **B3CRA**, **B4CRA**, **B5CRA**, **B6CRA**, **B7CRA**, **B8CRA**, **B9CRA**) from across the country will be active on **May 3rd-5th** for the annual "5.5 China Amateur Radio Festival" on air event, organized by the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC). See <http://www.crac.org.cn/55> for the awards. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0501-0508)

C5, THE GAMBIA. Arnaud, F4AGG and Luc, F5RAV will be active as **C5D** (RTTY, PSK and FT8) and **C5C** (SSB and CW) from the Gambia from **April 25th to May 8th**. Activity is also being planned to take place from the Bijol Island (AF-060) sometime during their stay. When on the island, they will sign **C5B**, with activity via satellite RS-44. QSL C5D via LoTW only; QSL C5C and C5B via LoTW, or direct to [F5RAV](#).

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0424-0508)

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. Paulo, ZS6CRZ, is setting up in Tete as **C95CRZ**. QRV currently on 10m SSB with a wire antenna and 100W and future improvements likely. QSL via qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2506 April 15, 2026] (0417-0508)

CEØZ, JUAN FERNANDEZ. Felipe, XQ7IR, will be active as **3GØZ** from Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005), Juan Fernandez for approximately **three weeks in May**. A side trip to IOTA Group SA-101 is being planned: "there is now a very strong possibility of carrying out a short but highly valuable operation from Alejandro Selkirk Island, with an estimated on-air window of approximately 24 to 36 hours", Felipe says. "This activation will depend entirely on the final logistics costs involved in moving part of my radio equipment to the island, as well as securing enough gasoline to keep the generator running during the operation. Should this operation take place, it will be under the callsign **XRØZ**, which has already been requested and officially authorized by SUBTEL. At this moment, everything is under evaluation and the project remains open, but the chances are real and increasing". Bookmark <https://www.robinsoncrusoe2026.net> for updates.

(The first and so far only operation from SA-101 took place in February 2020 as CBØZ, operated by IT9YRE and K9AJ.)

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0529)

CN, MOROCCO. Pascal, F8NQV will be active as **CN2NQV** from Sidi Rahal Chatai, Morocco from **April 25th to July 11th**. Look for him on or around 7155, 14345, 18140, 21165 and 28575 kHz.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0710)

CU, AZORES. Juerg, HB9BIN, is QRV as **CU2/HB9BIN/P** from San Miguel (EU-003) **until May 10th**. Activity is focused on SOTA, CUFF, and POTA using 10 watts on CW. QSL via [HB9BIN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0515)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DR17ØTESLA** by DARC's Ortsverband Mainz (DLØMZ) celebrates the 170th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla from **May 1st until December 31st**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [DK8ZZ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

DL, GERMANY. The special event station **DA1ØØLENZ** (special DOK SL100) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the German author Siegfried Lenz **until the end of August**. QSLs will be sent out automatically via the bureau.

-[DXNL # 2506 April 15, 2026] (0417-0508)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of May 1, 2026:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. KH3	Johnston Island	12. EZ	Turkmenistan
3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. YK	Syria
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. FT/T	Tromelin Island
9. BV9P	Pratas Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. KH4	Midway Island	20. KH1	Baker Howland Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF May 1, 2026 (0501-0522)

E5/S, SOUTH COOK IS. Tom, K7TLM and Leslie, KD7YZE will be active as **E51TLM** from Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands on **May 4th-9th**. They will operate QRP on 28385 kHz (SSB) and 28060 kHz (slow CW) between 1900 and 0100 UTC. QSL via [K7TLM](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0508)

EA, SPAIN. Special event stations **AO1EU** through **AO9EU** are QRV to commemorate Europe Day. Activity continues **through May 9th**. QSL via [EA3RKE](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

EX, KYRGYZSTAN. Serge, **EXØM**, is QRV on 17 meter CW and looking for North American stations. QSL via [EXØM](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 16, 2026] (0417-0508)

F, FRANCE. On March 27, 1899, Guglielmo Marconi achieved the first international wireless transmission, sending Morse code signals between Wimereux (near Boulogne-sur-Mer), France, and the South Foreland Lighthouse in Dover, England. Commemorating this milestone in the history of telecommunications, the special event station **TM8DW** will be active from Wimereux **on April 25th** during the International Marconi Day, and **sporadically until June**. In addition, **GB2DOVER**, **GB2SFL** and **GB8DW** will be operated by the Dover Amateur Radio Club on the British side of the Channel. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0417-0529)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM1Ø1WARD** by the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais (REF) celebrates World Amateur Radio Day from **April 14th to 20th**. WARD is observed annually on April 18th, the day when the IARU was formed in Paris 101 years ago.

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0410-0524)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW, plans to return as **FO/F6BCW** from **May 5th until July 20th** from Tikehau (OC-066), this time with an amplifier and improved antennas. QRV with 100W on 20-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0717)

G, ENGLAND. Special callsign **GBØ3MAJ** celebrates the anniversary of the Polish constitution of 1791 **on May 3rd**.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0508)

G, ENGLAND. A Belgian team (ON1BN, ON4AML, ON5SEL, ON6EF, ON6VJ, ON7TA, ON7VM and ON9DJ) will be active as **GB9IOW** from the Isle of Wight (EU-120) from **April 28th to May 5th**. They will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on the HF bands and 6 meters, as well as on QO-100 and 23 cm moonbounce. See <https://hamradioexpedition.com/> for more information. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and eQSL; QSL via [ON6EE](#).

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0424-0508)

HS, THAILAND. Bruce, KØBJ, is QRV as **HSØZLB** until **May 19th**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [KØBJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

I, ITALY. Commemorating the centenary of the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile Transpolar Flight, members of ARI Colli Albani will operate under the special callsign **IØNRG** from **May 12th until July 31st**. The suffix stands for "Norge", the Italian-built airship that achieved the first verified journey to the North Pole (May 11-14, 1926) and completed the first flight across the polar ice cap from Europe to America. A certificate will be available; details will be published on QRZ. QSL via [IØKNQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ, is active as **JG8NQJ/JD1** until **mid-May** during his spare time. Operation is mostly CW and FT8. QSL via [JA8CJY](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 9, 2026] (0410-0515)

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Harry, JG7PSJ, will be QRV as **JD1BMH** from Chichijima (AS-031) from **April 26th to May 4th**. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via bureau to JD1BMH or direct [JG7PSJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0508)

LA, NORWAY. Watch for **LG5LG** and **SJ9WL** to be QRV from Morokulien, the shared site on the border of Norway and Sweden, until **May 2nd**. Operators DK4WM, DK3JF, and DL9ET are active on SSB, RTTY, and FT modes. QSL via [LA7TIA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

LZ, BULGARIA. The foundations of Bulgaria's organized amateur radio movement were laid in 1926, when 38 enthusiasts established the Bulgarian Radio Club - a predecessor to today's Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA). Celebrating this centenary, members of the BFRA will be active as **LZ1ØØLZ** on 160-10 meters CW, SSB and digital modes from **May 1st to 31st**. See <https://lzprint.eu/lz100lz-award/> for the certificates.

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0529)

LZ, BULGARIA. Bulgarian members of the High Speed Club (HSC) celebrate the 75th anniversary with the callsign **LZ75HSC** throughout 2026. QSL via [LZ2JE](#).

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

ON, BELGIUM. Special callsign **OT26EPIC** by the Antwerp Port Contest Club (ON8APC) promotes this year's edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. Look for activity from **April 25th to May 25th** (the actual day of the race). QSL via [ON8JJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0424-0529)

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Robin Xu, BG5DON, has returned to Port Moresby and spends time on the air as **P29XZ** during his spare time. QRV on 20-10m (FT8). The duration of his stay is not known. At present all QSL requests will be handled via his e-mail: bitclub@163.com.

-[DXNL # 2507 April 22, 2026] (0424-0515)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special callsign **PG75HSC** by Theo, PA3HEN celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Radio Telegraphy Highspeed Club (HSC) until the end of the year. Also joining the celebrations is Artur, SP3LPR as **3Z75HSC**. The club was founded in 1951 as a community within the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC). To date, membership has grown to include 1400+ operators all over the world: <http://www.highspeedclub.org>. QSL PG75HSC via [PA3HEN](#), and LoTW. QSL 3Z75HSC via [SP3LPR](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0417-0508)

PJ4, BONAIRE. TJ, PE1OJR is active holiday style as **PJ4TB** from Bonaire (SA-006) **until May 4th**. He operates SSB, FT8 and FT4 on 40-6 meters. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0417-0508)

PY, BRAZIL. Special callsign **ZX8AM** is active from various WWFF sites in Amazonas State from **May 4th to May 8th**. Operators PT2OP, PY7BR, and PS8RV are working from Anavilhanas National Park, PYFF-0212, Baixo Rio Branco Jauaperi Extractive Reserve, PYFF-0478, and Rio Negro State Park, PYFF-0664. QSL via [PT2OP](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

SØ, WESTERN SAHARA. Naama, SØ1A, and Azman, SØ1AH, are QRV as **SØ9S** **until the end of May** to mark the 50th anniversary of Western Sahara. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0529)

SM, SWEDEN. Watch for **LG5LG** and **SJ9WL** to be QRV from Morokulien, the shared site on the border of Norway and Sweden, **until May 2nd**. Operators DK4WM, DK3JF, and DL9ET are active on SSB, RTTY, and FT modes. QSL via [LA7TIA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

SP, POLAND. Artur, SP3LPR, celebrating the High Speed Club (HSC), will use special callsign **3Z75HSC** **until the end of 2026**.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

SV, GREECE. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special callsign **SZ4ØA** **until May 31st** to celebrate forty years of continuous presence, service, and contribution to amateur radio. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via [ON3UN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0529)

T31, CENTRAL KIRIBATI. Dom, 3Z9DX, is QRV as **T31TTT** for approximately four days. Recent activity noted on 15 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Joao, CR7BNW, is active as **TL8BNW** **until June**. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. For QSL info, see [TL8BNW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 9, 2026] (0410-0529)

TU, COTE D'IVOIRE. Mat, **TU5JZ**, in Abidjan is active sporadically on 40 and 10m FT8. QSL via [F5HPE](#).

-[DXNL # 2506 April 15, 2026] (0417-0508)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Various stations using the **RP81** prefix are active from **May 1st to May 9th** to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the end of World War Two. See <https://award.srr.ru/memorial/pobeda-2026/info.html> for more information (in Russian).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0508)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Markus, WW6W, will be QRV as **V4/WW6W** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **April 28th to June 1st**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via [WW6W](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0529)

V7, MARSHALL IS. Paul, KA4WPX, is currently on Kwajalein (OC-028) and shows up on 20m several times a week (0700-0930z) as **V7/KA4WPX/p** or as **V73AX**. The duration of his stay is not known at present.

-[DXNL # 2506 April 15, 2026] (0417-0508)

VE, CANADA. Mike, VE2XB, activates Belcher Island (NA-196) as **VYØZOO** **until May 4th** on 40-10m, mostly CW. QSL direct via [VE2XB](#).

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0508)

VK9N, NORFOLK I. Dom, VK2HJ, is regularly QRV as **VK9HJ/p** during work assignments. He operates with 100 watts and a vertical antenna on 20 to 10 meters. QSL via qrz.com.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0515)

VP8/H,LU, SOUTH SHETLAND IS. Rafal, SQ4O is a member of the 50th Polish Antarctic Expedition to the Henryk Arctowski Station on King George Island, South Shetland Islands (AN-010). He will be working there from **May to October**, and in his spare time he will be QRV as **HFØPAS** on the HF bands (SSB and CW) and 6 meters (FT8). QSL route TBA.
-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0501-0529)

VU, INDIA. Led by Sarath, VU2RS, team **AU2M** will be active from Arnala Island (AS-169) on **May 1st-3rd**. They plan to operate 80-10 meter CW, SSB and FT8 (F/H) with three stations. They might also have a fourth Station for 6 meters. Donations will be gratefully accepted, see <http://www.vu2rs.com/au2m> for the details. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).
-[425DXN # 1819 March 14, 2026] (0501-0508)

XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO will be active again as **XT2AW** from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on **May 6th-19th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT modes on various HF bands and the QO-100 satellite. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).
-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

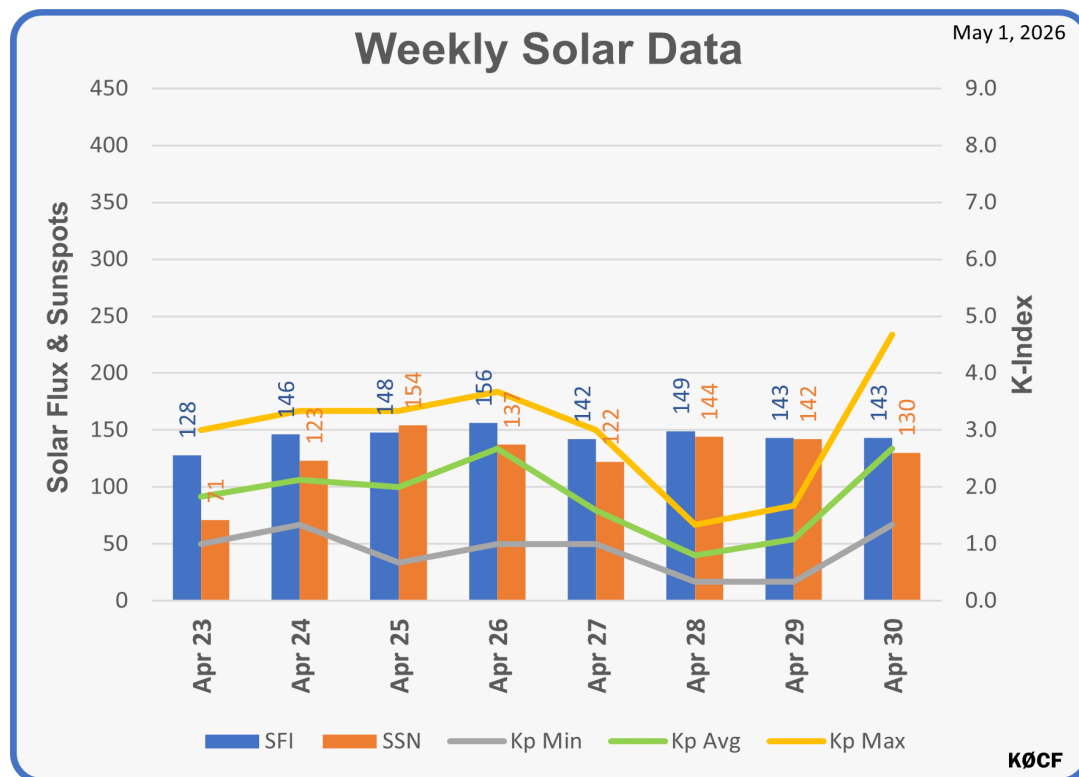
XU, CAMBODIA. Thomas, DL7BO, is active as **XU7O** on 160 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL via [DL4WK](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 16, 2026] (0417-0508)

XW, LAOS. Vincent, **XW4KV**, is QRV on 15 meter FT8. Logs are uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or [F4BKV](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 16, 2026] (0417-0508)

YI, IRAQ. Yousif, formerly YI1YJK, now operates as **YI1CW** on various HF bands and the QO-100 satellite. QSL via QRZ.COM, or LoTW. No paper QSLs.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 16, 2026] (0417-0508)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, YI1DZ, has a renewed (6 months) contract with the World Food Program and expects to return to Juba next week. Look for him during his spare time as **Z81D** on HF using SSB and FT8. QSL via [OM3JW](#) OQRS.
-[DXNL # 2506 April 15, 2026] (0417-0508)

Propagation



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

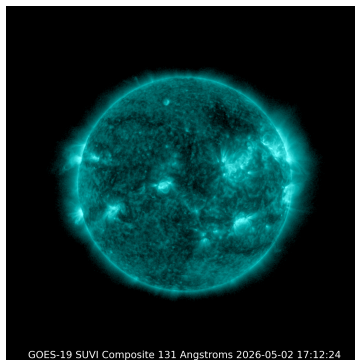
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, April 23rd through Thursday, April 30th.

The average solar flux was 147, up 35 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 156 on Sunday, April 26th, following a low of 128 on April 23rd.

The average sunspot count was 136, up 81 from last week, peaking at 154 on Saturday, April 25th after a weekly low of 71 on April 23rd.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.0 with a maximum of 4.7 on Thursday, April 30th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since April 24th has been high with 14 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 2.5 event on Friday, April 24th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, April 24th through 1601 UTC, May 1st.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Apr 28	1407	M 1.1
2	Apr 28	1353	M 1.5
3	Apr 26	2257	M 6.0
4	Apr 26	2004	M 2.2
5	Apr 26	1924	M 1.7
6	Apr 26	1403	M 1.4
7	Apr 26	0023	M 1.3
8	Apr 25	1430	M 1.1
9	Apr 25	0759	M 1.3
10	Apr 24	1815	M 6.4
11	Apr 24	1301	M 1.7
12	Apr 24	0907	M 1.9
13	Apr 24	0813	X 2.5
14	Apr 24	0107	X 2.4

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
May 1	50%	10%	135
May 2	50%	10%	130
May 3	50%	10%	128

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on April 27, 2026).

Date	Flux	Kp
May 1	152	3
May 2	148	2
May 3	142	3
May 4	140	3

Date	Flux	Kp
May 5	140	2
May 6	135	2
May 7	135	5
May 8	135	4

Date	Flux	Kp
May 9	120	3
May 10	110	2
May 11	115	2
May 12	115	2

Low Chance Of Flares Today

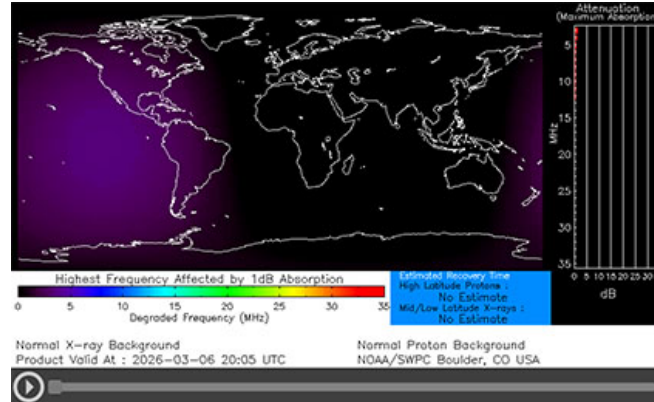
Warning: This kind of forecast sometimes provokes an [X-flare](#). Solar activity is quieting as sunspots on

the solar disk lose their magnetic complexity. Sunspot 4425, in particular, has almost completely stopped flaring in the past 48 hours. Strong explosions are therefore unlikely on April 30th.

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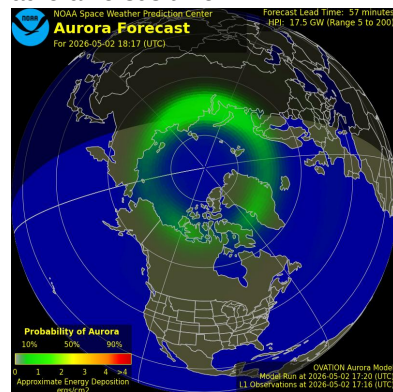
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the

higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC	End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z 0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z 1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z 2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z 0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z 1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z 2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z 0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z 0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z 0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z 0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start	End	Web Site
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 2	1300Z May 3	0700Z Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 2	1600Z May 3	0400Z Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 2	1700Z May 3	2359Z Rules

New England QSO Party	May 2	2000Z	May 3	2400Z	Rules
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 9	1200Z	May 10	1159Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 16	1200Z	May 17	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 16	1400Z	May 17	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 30	0000Z	May 31	2400Z	Rules
Atlantic Canada QSO Party	Jun 6	1200Z	Jun 7	0200Z	Rules
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 6	1300Z	Jun 7	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 6	1800Z	Jun 7	2400Z	Rules
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 13	1800Z	Jun 15	0300Z	Rules
All Asian DX Contest, CW	Jun 20	0000Z	Jun 21	2400Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 20	1500Z	Jun 21	1500Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 20	1800Z	Jun 20	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 27	1800Z	Jun 28	2100Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	Jul 4	1200Z	Jul 5	1200Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest	Jul 18	1200Z	Jul 19	1200Z	Rules
RSGB IOTA Contest	Jul 25	1200Z	Jul 26	1200Z	Rules
Alabama QSO Party	Jul 25	1500Z	Jul 26	0300Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 1	1800Z	Aug 2	0600Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))